

Media, PA — On Saturday, February 23, Delaware County's Concerned Citizens for Environmental Change hosted their 3rd Annual Environmental Summit. The event, held at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge in Tinicum, was titled "Environmental Protection is in Your Hands," and featured guest speakers including Congressman Joe Sestak (PA – 07). — Congressman Sestak ran on a platform of four pillars of national security—health security, educational security, defense security, and economic security—and has since added a fifth pillar: environmental security.

"I am inspired by the passion of the people in our community to address growing environmental concerns," Congressman Sestak said. "As my colleagues and I fight in Congress to force our government to face the reality of such issues as global warming and our country's over-dependence on foreign oil at \$100 a barrel, we are emboldened by the united resolve of our citizens to demand that these issues be given the highest national priority. These are not just environmental and health issues: They are at the core of our economic future stability and our national security."

While addressing broader environmental issues, the Congressman focused specifically on the FAA's Airspace Redesign, which adversely affects the surrounding areas of the Philadelphia International Airport, and will have deleterious impact on the environment in those communities.

He noted that the FAA wrongly articulated its plan to redesign before waiting for the results of a draft of Environmental Impact Statement. Further, the FAA stopped describing the airspace redesign project as "capacity enhancing," apparently to avoid fully examining critical environmental impacts required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The airspace redesign project is a policy "action" for which NEPA mandates specific environmental assessments, which to this day remain incomplete.

This past Wednesday, February 20, the Congressman held a widely attended press conference to address the FAA Airspace Redesign and spoke on a number of topics, including this environmental impact.

During his first term in Congress, Sestak voted for a number of initiatives speak to the issue of environmental security. This December, he voted for the Energy Independence and Security Act (H.R. 6). With its passage, Congress took bold step towards reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and strengthening our national security, lowering energy costs, increasing America's supply of home-grown renewable energy, investing in cutting-edge research on renewable fuels, and reducing harmful pollutants to the environment.

This legislation builds upon the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 3221 and H.R. 2776) passed this summer. It is a fiscally-responsible legislation, under a "pay-as-you-go" government, that will close tax loopholes that have allowed big oil companies to skirt paying their taxes.

"With provisions to dramatically improve and modernize automotive fuel economy standards, promote renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, reduce pollutants, and boost the

production of home-grown renewable energy, this legislation will move our nation toward a cleaner energy future and reduce global warming while generating economic growth and creating jobs. It is essential to our future." said Congressman Sestak of this landmark legislation.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House Congress.

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